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NSC BRIEFING

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SOUTHEAST ASIA: #5--MALAYA

I. Malaya is now nearing its goal of independence (scheduled for August 1957).

A. Chief Minister Rahman is due to leave for London in December to discuss military and financial adjustments related to the transfer of power.

II. By far the most serious problem to confront the new Malayan government will be Sino-Malay race relations.

A. The Chinese, who form over one-third of the population, want

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Malays, who fear being overwhelmed by growing Chinese numbers, are insisting on strict citizenship limitations for the Chinese and a Malay chief of state.

For the past few years, Chinese and Malays have submerged their differences in the interest of independence, but this cooperation seems to be ending.

Chief Minister Rahman has stated that the Chinese can go to if they do not accept his citizenship proposals, but the Chinese are remaining adamant.

Inclusion of the Crown Colony of Singapore as part of the new Malaysia would further complicate this racial situation by tipping the overall

population balance in favor of the Chinese.

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A The Chinese of Singapore, moreover, are heavily infiltrated
Communists.

IV Meanwhile, Communist terrorism in Malaya continues, at a reduced rate.

4 So far Rahman has rejected all terrorist overtures for a
settlement.

5 British security forces continue to make progress in ferreting
out terrorists. last week they killed the #2 Communist leader.

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